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Historic Rugby, Tennessee

Historic Rugby, Tennessee, is a unique Victorian village that offers a glimpse into the past with its well-preserved architecture and rich history.

Founded in 1880 by British author Thomas Hughes, Rugby was intended to be a utopian community for the younger sons of English gentry. Although

Hughes's vision did not fully materialize, the village has survived and today stands as a testament to his dream. Visitors can explore the historic

buildings, such as the Thomas Hughes Free Public Library, which holds the distinction of being the first free public library in the South, and the

Kingstone Lisle, which was Hughes's home. The

Christ Church Episcopal, built in 1887, is another notable structure, showcasing the Gothic Revival architecture that characterizes the village. The Rugby Visitor Centre & Theatre offers tours that include a screening of the historical film "The Power of a Dream," which chronicles the village's history. For those interested in the supernatural, there are also after-dark tours that explore the village's haunted history. With a variety of events, workshops, and outdoor activities, Historic Rugby provides an educational and immersive experience for all who visit. It's a place where history is not only preserved but also celebrated, allowing visitors to step back in time and experience the charm of a bygone era.